



## Life Course

Childhood Risk Factor

## Brief Name

Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect

## Indicator

Rate of children experiencing substantiated abuse or neglect per 1,000.

## Description

This metric captures incidents of abuse or neglect that have been substantiated or proven by Child Protective Services (CPS). Abuse and neglect are federally defined as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."

WI	US	Best	Worst
3.6*	9.4	1.2	22.9
per 1,000		per 1,000	
Year		PA	MA

2014

## Numerator

Number of unique children with substantiated claims of abuse or neglect

## Denominator

Children aged 0 to 18, per 1,000

\*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at  $p < 0.05$ .

## Importance

The link between substantiated child abuse or neglect and the negative impact on children's mental health is well documented (Norman, 2012). The most common form of maltreatment is neglect, which has the potential to disrupt a child's typical behavioral, social, and emotional development. National data on child abuse and neglect are presented to Congress through the Child Welfare Outcomes: Report to Congress, and are tracked as part of Healthy People 2020.

## Limitations

Different definitions of abuse/neglect may exist across states, as defined per state statutes and policies.

This metric only includes documented, substantiated cases of abuse or neglect which may result in reporting bias for low-income and minority children, and the exclusion of less severe, yet still impactful, incidents (Dubowitz, 2002).

This metric is a unique count of children; cases where a single child is involved in multiple substantiations are still only counted once; this metric is an underestimate of the total number of substantiated reports.

## Source

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2014). National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. Accessed online at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2014-data-tables>. National comparison data from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf>. Norman, Rosana E., et al. "The long-term health consequences of child physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect: a systematic review and meta-analysis." PLoS Med, 9.11 (2012): e1001349. Dubowitz, Howard, et al. "Child neglect: Outcomes in high-risk urban preschoolers." Pediatrics, 109.6 (2002): 1100-1107.